

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Propertyhistoric name Foxburg Country Club and Golf Courseother names/site number Grange, Robert W., Jr. Summer House**2. Location**street & number 369 Harvey Road not for publication N/Acity or town Foxburg and Richland Township vicinity N/Astate Pennsylvania code PA county Clarion code 031 zip code 16036**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide x locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

January 8, 2007

Signature of certifying official/Title

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet.determined eligible for the National Register
See continuation sheet.determined not eligible for the National Registerremoved from the National Registerother (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

☐ building(s)
☐ district
☒ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously-listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>		sites
		structures
<u>9</u>		objects
<u>12</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

none

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

RECREATION & CULTURE/outdoor recreation

SOCIAL/clubhouse

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/clubhouse

RECREATION & CULTURE/outdoor

recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY

AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Arts-and-Crafts

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/sandstone

walls WOOD/log; STONE/sandstone

roof STONE/slate

other WOOD

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Refer to Continuation Sheets

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 61 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	610740	4556080	3	17	611100 4555740
2	17	611020	4556320	4	17	610700 4555600
				5	17	610540 4555800

N/A See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David L. Taylor, Principal

organization Taylor & Taylor Associates, Inc. date October, 2006

street & number 9 Walnut Street telephone 814-849-4900

city or town Brookville state PA zip code 15825

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Foxburg Country Club, c/o David Middleton, President of the Board

street & number 369 Harvey Road telephone 724-659-3196

city or town Foxburg state PA zip code 16036

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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7. Description

The Foxburg Country Club and Golf Course consists of an 1887 61.14-acre 9-hole, 5,219-yard golf course (Resource No. 1; Photo 13), a 1912 seasonal home (Resource No. 2; Photos 1-12) adapted for use as a clubhouse in 1942, a golf cart storage building of modern construction (Resource No. 3; Photo 16)), a c. 1890 stone well house (Resource No. 4; Photo 15)), a maintenance building/restroom of modern construction (Resource No. 5; Photo 18), and a series of nine historic golf-related stone troughs (Resource Nos. 6-14; Photo 14) which are contributing objects associated with the golf course. The nominated tract lies in Clarion County, in rural northwestern Pennsylvania and includes one contributing site (the golf course), two contributing buildings (the club house and well house), and two non-contributing buildings (one a cart storage building and the other a maintenance building/restroom), both of which date from outside the period of significance, and the nine contributing objects. A series of historic dry stone retaining walls, generally less than two feet in height, are found near several of the tee boxes, as are benches with concrete ends and wood seats; these are treated as uncounted landscape features within the context of the nomination. In addition, an uncounted Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission pole-mounted commemorative plaque (Photo 17) stands near the south edge of the nominated tract along Pennsylvania State Route 58. The property is located on two adjacent tracts, a 53.96-acre tract in the northeastern portion of the Borough of Foxburg and a 7.18-acre tract in unincorporated Richland Township (Photo 13; Fig. 1, 4). The golf course sits atop a steep hillside approximately three hundred feet above the Allegheny River, which flows west of the property and is joined by the Clarion River nearby (Fig. 1). The property retains integrity and appears much as it has since the construction of the clubhouse in 1912.

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The course traverses a rolling landscape which slopes downward from north to south, providing holes 1, 4, 7, and 8 with down-sloping fairways, Nos. 3, 5, and 9 with up-sloping fairways; Nos. 2 and 6 are comparatively flat at the bottom and top of the slope, respectively. The course contains tee boxes, fairways, rough, greens, sand traps, and mature vegetation, including both deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubbery typically associated with such an outdoor sports facility. A small pond is north of No. 8 tee.

Characteristic of the early golf courses and unlike modern courses, Foxburg was less formally designed than it was laid out over existing terrain, without efforts to create a new topography or to develop a challenging "penal design" to confront the players.¹ That fact notwithstanding, the Allegheny Valley (later the B & O) Railroad originally crossed the southern part of the course, providing a special challenge to golfers. The track was eventually abandoned and has since been removed. The greens at Foxburg are of medium size, lacking the spacious area characterized by putting surfaces at many larger, formally-designed courses. The course's sand traps are comparatively shallow. Of particular note are the carved stone blocks on each of the nine tee boxes (Photo 14; Fig. 5), rectangular in form, with two deep troughs hand-carved into the top surfaces of each. These objects are important links to the earliest days of the course and recall the historic practice of crafting tees prior to the standard commercial manufacturing of tees. Originally, tees were created from a handful of sand (kept in one trough) moistened with water (kept in the other); the wet sand was then mounded by hand to form an elevated surface from which to hit the first shot on each hole. A 1999 interview with James Tonks,² who worked at the course from 1927 to 1942, revealed that

¹In the early days of golf course design, those courses designed to overpower all but the most skilled golfers were said to have been of the "penal design," referring to the punishment extracted by the links upon the average player.

²Taped interview in the collection of the Foxburg Country Club.

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when he first worked at the course, the stone troughs, to which he referred as “sandboxes,” were still in use. His duties included the replenishing of the water and sand every Saturday; he also had to clean the sandboxes, since birds used the troughs as bird baths. The stone troughs eventually gave way to the earliest tees, which Tonks remembered were of pressed paper, painted yellow. Nonetheless, the troughs remain as distinctive physical reminders of golf's earliest days at Foxburg. In addition to the stone troughs, at various locations on the golf course are dry stone retaining walls (Photo 14) which also date from the earliest days of the course; they are uncounted landscape features within the context of the course as a whole. Also, most tee boxes have benches with concrete ends into which are inserted planks to serve as seats. The age of these benches is not known, but an interview with club president David Middleton indicates that they are well over fifty years of age.³

No plans exist for Joseph M. Fox's original course of 1887 or for its initial expansion to the present nine-hole configuration which occurred in 1888. James Tonks remembered that grass tennis courts had existed on the property in the early years of the twentieth-century. Some minor realignments of the course layout occurred during Tonks' boyhood and the tennis courts were allowed to grow over and became part of the golf course.⁴ According to long-time member Robert Ginnon, who began caddying at Foxburg in 1939, the alignment of the course has not changed at all since then.⁵

The original clubhouse was little more than a large shed (Fig. 2) on the course east of

³Unrecorded conversation with David Middleton, 2006, the substance of which is incorporated into this document.

⁴The realigning of golf courses, lengthening of holes, construction of new tee boxes, etc. is not an unusual occurrence.

⁵Correspondence from club president David Middleton to preparer of nomination, 2005.

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and across Harvey Road from the present clubhouse; it was erected in 1900 and was demolished in 1942 after the present club house was acquired. The present clubhouse (Resource No. 2) stands across Harvey Road immediately west of the course. It was acquired by the Club in 1941. A Craftsman/Rustic Adirondack-style residential building of log construction (Photos 1-4; Fig. 3), it was built in 1912 as a summer home for Pittsburgh attorney Robert W. Graves, Jr. The clubhouse is three stories in height, rests on a sandstone foundation, and is capped with a jerkinhead gable roof of slate. It measures 36' x 43' and is distinguished by a broad veranda that extends outward 13' away from the plane of the building and crosses the entire facade (west elevation) and the south elevation. The veranda has a beaded wood ceiling and is supported by a series of random ashlar sandstone pillars (Photos 1, 2, 3, 5). Some historic lighting fixtures have been retained on the porch. On the north side of the building, a former billiard room, 19' x 23', was converted into the pro shop (Photo 2). Fenestration is flat-topped, with multi-light Arts-and-Crafts-style wood sash. Several random-ashlar fieldstone chimneys penetrate the roofline at the gable ends and shed dormers penetrate the roofline on the facade and rear elevation (Photos 1, 2, 4), allowing additional light into the third story. An exterior stair of wood leads outward from the second story behind the pro shop (Photo 4).

The basement of the clubhouse is architecturally undistinguished and contains locker rooms, restrooms, a lounge (Photo 6), and mechanical space. The first story (Photos 7, 8, 9) includes a large reception room, a small kitchen, and a diningroom/meeting room, with the aforementioned pro shop on the north side of the first story in the former billiard room. Four stone fireplaces are on the first story, one each at the end of the large reception room, one in the diningroom, and one in the billiard room/pro shop (Photo 9). A double-run, open-string stair with a modest wood newel and balustrade leads from the northwest corner of the reception room to the second story. On the second story are several rooms, also with fire-

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places, which were originally bedrooms but which have been converted for use both as sitting rooms (Photos 10, 11) and for the display of golf memorabilia (Photo 12) which is housed within the clubhouse. The third story contains additional display space. The interior of the clubhouse is minimally altered from the original; the conversion of the billiard room into the pro shop and the installation of locker rooms and a lounge in the basement did not compromise the otherwise unimpaired integrity of the building.

Across Harvey Road and southeast of the clubhouse is a c. 1890 one-story well/pump house of stone construction (Resource No. 5; Photo 15). A one-story c. 1980 wood building (Resource No. 3; Photo 16) is across a paved parking area immediately south of the clubhouse, and a c. 1995 wood maintenance building with restrooms is along near the eastern edge of the course along hole No. 5. On the southern perimeter of the course on State Route 58 is a Pennsylvania Historical and Museum commemorative plaque installed in 1955 (Resource No. 3; Fig. 6). The plaque is an uncounted feature and bears the following legend:

FOXBURG GOLF COURSE

Oldest golf course in continuous use in the U. S. In 1887, land was made available to the newly-formed Foxburg Golf Club by Joseph M. Fox, its first president. Course was enlarged from five to nine holes in 1888. The Foxburg Country Club purchased, in 1924, the original land which it had been leasing.

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8. Statement of Significance

The Foxburg Country Club and Golf Course dates from 1887 and meets National Register Criterion A, representing the patterns of *recreation and culture* as a sports facility irrefutably linked to the introduction of the game of golf to the United States in the 1880s. The Foxburg Country Club and Golf Course also meets National Register Criterion C for *architecture* for the design of its club house, formerly a summer home designed by a prominent New York City architect and an outstanding example of Adirondack Rustic style of design, one of the interpretations of the Arts-and-Crafts style of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The period of significance begins in 1887, when golf was first played on the course, and extends to 1956, corresponding to the National Register fifty-year guideline. The entire nominated property retains integrity in all of its composite qualities.

The story of the Foxburg Country Club begins in 1785, when Philadelphian Samuel Mickle Fox (1763-1808) began to acquire holdings in the frontier of western Pennsylvania. He amassed more than 100,000 acres, including a 1,100-acre tract of land on the Allegheny River, at the confluence of the Allegheny and the Clarion Rivers. This tract eventually included the community of Foxburg and contains the nominated property. On a promontory overlooking the Allegheny River, the Fox family erected a substantial summer home, locally known as the Fox Mansion; this property is about one mile south of the golf course and well outside the nominated area. Two generations later, in 1880, Samuel Mickel Fox's grandson, Joseph Mickle Fox (1853-1918), was living in Philadelphia after graduation from Haverford College and admission to the Philadelphia Bar. Fox did not engage in the practice of law, but instead was involved with the management of the family's extensive investments. Upon the premature

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death of his older brother, William Logan Fox (1851-1880) at less than thirty years of age, Joseph Fox, himself in his twenties, assumed full control over the family's holdings, including the Fox lands in western Pennsylvania.

Joseph Mickle Fox was a member of the prestigious Philadelphia-based Merion Cricket Club and in 1884 traveled to Europe with the All-American Cricket Team for matches in England, Ireland, and Scotland. Fox played on the eleven-man team christened "The Gentlemen of Philadelphia."⁶ While in Edinburgh, Scotland, Fox traveled to the Royal and Ancient Golf Course at St. Andrews, the acknowledged international home of golf, to observe the playing of the game. "Old" Tom Morris (1821-1898), the legendary golf professional at St. Andrews, provided the young Fox with instruction, sold him clubs and primitive gutta-percha balls, all of which returned with Fox when he came home to America.

Joseph Mickle Fox brought his golf equipment westward to the Fox Mansion and laid out a rudimentary eight-hole course on the lawns. He likely played with business associates and members of his family--the game was far from the comparatively egalitarian sport known today. The identity of Fox's first playing partners is not known, but enthusiasm developed for the new game and by the summer of 1887 the Fox lawns were too small to meet the needs of the new golf enthusiasts. Fox proposed that a course be laid out on some nearby family land and that the game be made available to the community. On a tract along the Petersburg Road (now State Route 58) corresponding to the nominated tract, a five-hole course was laid out. In **Colonial and Revolutionary Families of Pennsylvania**, John W. Jordan noted that among

⁶Fox family genealogy, typewritten MS at Foxburg Free Library, Foxburg, Pennsylvania.

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Joseph Mickle Fox's accomplishments was "the making of an excellent golf course near the village of Foxburg, which proved a great attraction to the neighborhood."⁷ In 1888 the course was expanded to its present nine-hole configuration, which was likely laid out by Fox himself; early in the twentieth century nine additional holes were built south of present day Route 58, it is not known when the additional nine holes were abandoned, but play on the "new" nine holes was suspended, due to the cost of maintenance which would have increased the annual dues.⁸ The land containing the "new" nine holes was sold and eventually the Allegheny-Clarion Valley High School was erected on the site. The game of golf has been played here every season since 1887. Landscape changes since addition of the last four holes in 1888 have been minimal and in no way diminish the significance of Fox's pioneer golf course.

In 1887 the Foxburg Golf Club was formally organized, and officers were elected. Joseph Mickle Fox became president and Harry R. Harvey was named secretary-treasurer. Harvey Road, located along the west perimeter of the course, bears his name. Harvey remained in that position for the next sixty-odd years and, late in life, recalled that there had been little need to keep minutes of the early meetings of the executive officers since the officers never changed.⁹ Annual dues were \$1.00. Some of Fox's Philadelphia friends became members along with business and community leaders from the surrounding area, including H. J. Crawford, of Emlenton, the founder of the Quaker State Oil Company. Record-keeping of any sort has been sparse throughout the history of the course, preventing any dependable analysis of

⁷Quoted in Mr. & Mrs. Marcellin G. Adams' MS, "The Story of the Foxburg Country Club," 1951.

⁸Interview by preparer of nomination with club president David Middleton, 2004.

⁹Adams, *Op. Cit.*

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membership trends; present-day membership is approximately 150.

The popularity of golf in rural western Pennsylvania received a significant boost with the discovery of oil in the Foxburg environs late in the nineteenth century. The village of Emlenton, three miles to the north, was reputed for many years to have been the wealthiest community per capita in the world, having seven millionaires in a population of 1,400. Oil was so much a part of the environs that several oil storage tanks dotted the golf course during the oil boom years, and the fortunes of oil in Emlenton and Foxburg encouraged the stability of the golf course during the early decades of play.

The Club initially leased the land containing the golf course from the Fox family. In 1924, several years after the death of Joseph Mickle Fox, the Club purchased the property from the family. It has remained in the ownership of the organization since that time.

In 1951, Mr. and Mrs. Marcellin G. Adams compiled a manuscript entitled, "The Story of the Foxburg Country Club." They recorded that in the early days the name of the course was changed to the Clarion County Golf Club, but when it was realized that, in addition to Clarion, members were drawn from the counties of Armstrong and Butler, "it was decided that it would be more diplomatic to name the inter-county organization for the place where the course was located. From that time on it has been the Foxburg Country Club."¹⁰ James Tonks recalled one practice that was not included in the Adamses' history: for a short time, perhaps

¹⁰Mr. and Mrs. Marcellin G. Adams, "The Story of the Foxburg Country Club." MS in collection of Foxburg Country Club.

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only spanning two years, Sunday morning play was prohibited.¹¹

The first greens were of sand and long poles with burlap bags tied to one end were used to smooth the greens after each group had completed play. Empty cans served as cups. The fairways were tended by "Old John" Dunkle, who mowed them with a scythe and was paid \$15.00 per year. In the club's earliest days this was the sole expenditure made from the organizational treasury.¹²

In 1892, the Ladies' Foxburg Country Club was organized with twenty-eight charter members; the initial membership fee was twenty-five cents and monthly dues were ten cents. The first president of the organization was Mrs. Major R. Morgan (1860-1950), the wife of a local banker who initially lived in downtown Foxburg but eventually built a house adjacent to the course. Mrs. Morgan retained the presidency of the group for thirty years and when in her eighties she wrote a two-page statement affirming the age of the club and noted, "I never thought that having the oldest golf course was important. It just belonged here and to us."¹³

In 1900 a small wood club house (Fig. 2) was erected along the lane (now Harvey Road) leading into the course. Of modest vernacular¹⁴ design, it was L-shaped in form and had

¹¹Tonks interview, *Op. Cit.*

¹²Adams, *Op. Cit.*

¹³Mrs. Major Morgan written statement, 1948, in collection of Foxburg Country Club.

¹⁴The term, "vernacular," as applied here, follows the definition found on page 512 of Ward Bucher's *Dictionary of Building Preservation* (New York: John Wiley, 1996) and refers to "a building built without being designed by an architect or someone with similar formal training."

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a hipped roof which extended forward from the building to shield a porch and provide shelter for golfers during inclement weather. James Tonks recalled that for years, Saturday afternoon picnics were held around this first club house. Long serving tables would be set up end-to-end and, "Harry Harvey would come out with a megaphone and holler that supper was ready and everybody would come in and eat."¹⁵ It remained in use until 1942 when it was razed after the club acquired the present clubhouse.

During the second and third decades of the twentieth century, sixteen homes, some seasonal and others year-round, were erected along the western periphery of the golf course. Built of log and stone construction in the Craftsman and Rustic Adirondack styles, these picturesque homes lay along the lane that would eventually bear the name of club charter member H. R. Harvey, who served on the club's board of directors for more than a half-century. The homes were built both for local owners and those from other areas. Among these was the summer home of Pittsburgh attorney Robert W. Grange, Jr., who engaged the prominent New York City firm of Goldwin Starrett and VanVleck to design his 1912 summer home. After his death in 1941, the Foxburg Country Club purchased the Grange house for \$5,000 and converted it into a clubhouse, a purpose which it retains.

Throughout the balance of the period of significance and continuing to the present, golf has been played every season at Foxburg by young and old alike, including local high school golf teams for whom Foxburg is their home course. The course has always been "semi-private," indicating that while memberships are sold, non-members may also pay greens fees to

¹⁵Tonks interview, Op. Cit.

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play.

In 1965, the American Golf Hall of Fame was organized at the Foxburg course and a museum containing a variety of golf memorabilia from the eighteenth century to the present was dedicated on the second story of the clubhouse. The American Golf Hall of Fame Association is a separate organization from the Foxburg Country Club, but over the years the groups have shared many members and the Association is a rent-free occupant of the club house.

On August 2, 1965, the Congress of the United States passed Resolution No. 497, attested by House Speaker John W. McCormick: "Resolved that the House of Representatives extends its greetings and felicitations to the American Golf Hall of Fame located in Foxburg, Pennsylvania, at the oldest golf course in continuous use in the United States, on the occasion of the first Hall of Fame awards to be made on August 29, 1965." Radio and television legend Lowell Thomas chaired the selection committee which chose for the first inductees famed golf course architect Robert Trent Jones and Lew Worsham, the club professional at Pittsburgh's Oakmont Country Club and a former U. S. Open champion, both of whom were present for the festivities. Golf legends Francis Ouimet, Harry Vardon, J. H. Taylor, James Braid, "Chick" Evans, Walter Hagen, Robert Tyre "Bobby" Jones, Jr., Henry Cotton, Joyce Weathered, Gene Sarazen, Tommy Armour, Byron Nelson, Ben Hogan, Sam Snead, and Mildred "Babe" Didrickson Zaharias were induced into the Hall of Fame *in absentia* and in some cases, posthumously.¹⁶

¹⁶"American Golf Hall of Fame," commemorative booklet (Foxburg: American Golf Hall of Fame Association, 1965).

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With respect to National Register Criterion A, the Foxburg course is significant in the area of *recreation/culture*, as the oldest golf course in continuous use in America. Spirited discussion has occurred over the decades among sport historians as to the validity of Foxburg's claim to have been the first golf course in the United States. The *Scottish American Newsletter* reported in 1994, "Clyde M. Clark of Bradenton, FL, called the PGA [Professional Golfers Association] who did not want to get into the debate. However, they also indicated that Foxburg was the first golf course and that St. Andrews golf course in Yonkers, NY is the second, started in 1888." The 2001 United States Golf Association **Media Guide** notes that "golf was played in 1884 at Oakhurst, West Virginia, at the Dorset Field Club in 1886, and in Foxburg, Pennsylvania in 1887." The other courses are not extant.

In 1968, the 90th U. S. Congress passed House Concurrent Resolution No. 822, stating, "Whereas golf has been played at the Foxburg Country Club of Foxburg Pennsylvania, each year since 1887; now therefore it be resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), that Congress hereby recognizes that the golf course of the Foxburg Country Club of Foxburg, Pennsylvania, is the oldest golf course in continuous use in the United States."

Primary source accounts and sworn affidavits gathered in the 1940s and 1950s from elderly original players and in possession of the Foxburg Country Club affirm that golf was indeed played in Foxburg in 1884, when Joseph Mickle Fox brought the game back from Scotland to the lawns of the Fox Mansion, and continuously from 1887 to the present on the course which Fox gave to the community. The significance of Foxburg Country Club lies in the fact that these sworn statements and the overwhelming body of local historical information

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confirms that the game has been played continuously *on the same site* since 1887.

In addition to its Criterion A significance, the Foxburg Country Club and Golf Course is also significant under National Register Criterion C, for the architecture of the club house, formerly the summer home of Robert W. Grange, Jr. The building was designed in the spring of 1912 by Goldwin Starrett and VanVleck, architects of New York City, whose work was virtually unknown in the rural reaches of northwestern Pennsylvania. Goldwin Starrett (1876-1918) was a native of Lawrence, Kansas who was educated at the University of Michigan. He was a draftsman in the Chicago office of Daniel Hudson Burnham, eventually becoming the head designer of that most prominent of Chicago architects of the day. After three years as Burnham's head designer, he relocated to the East Coast and in 1904 entered partnership with Joseph VanVleck; the firm became one of New York City's leading firms, designing a variety of office buildings (including the American Stock Exchange Building), private residences, and store buildings for Abercrombie and Fitch, Lord and Taylor, and Sax Fifth Avenue in New York and Garfinkle's in Washington, D. C., along with Algonquin Hotel and in 1914, Gimbel's in Pittsburgh.¹⁷ Two years before their Gimbel's commission, they designed Robert Grange's summer home at Foxburg. No other work of this firm has been identified in this region of Pennsylvania.

Viewing the Foxburg Country Club and Golf Course in the context of regional sports heritage, the historical importance of the other golf courses in the entire region pale by compar-

¹⁷Henry Withey, FAIA and Elsie Rathburn Withey, *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects [Deceased]*. (1956; rpt. Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls), p. 567.

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ison to that of Foxburg. The Butler Country Club, about thirty miles distant, dates from the early twentieth century as does the Wanango Country Club, near Oil City to the north; both are eighteen-hole courses with unremarkable clubhouses whose fortunes rose and fell with the western Pennsylvania oil industry. Pinecrest Country Club, west of Brookville and about thirty miles east of Foxburg, was originally a lumberman's private six-hole course until it was gifted to the communities of Brookville and Clarion in 1926, at which time it was expanded and a clubhouse was built; its nine-holes were expanded to eighteen in the 1960s. Bostonia Country Club south of New Bethlehem in Armstrong County is a nine-hole course with neither notable historical association or an architecturally-significant clubhouse. The championship courses in close proximity to Pittsburgh (about sixty miles south of Foxburg), including the Pittsburgh Field Club (1882) and Oakmont Country Club (1903-1904; NR 1984), are more closely associated with the steel industry's golfing wealthy than is Foxburg. These last two are clearly urban-oriented courses, in close proximity to Pittsburgh, while Foxburg is nestled in the rural reaches of north-central Pennsylvania.

None of the aforementioned courses can claim the undeniable significance to the history of American sport possessed by the course at Foxburg. Further, from the standpoint of architecture, the Starrett and Van Vleck-designed house-turned-clubhouse is of significance to the architectural heritage of rural west-central Pennsylvania, an area with comparatively few architect-designed historic resources.

Pennsylvania's two other acknowledged premiere historic golf venues, the Oakmont Country Club near Pittsburgh and the Merion Golf Course (NR 1989) near Philadelphia, are

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far grander, urban-scaled, championship courses. Oakmont dates from 1901 and Merion's two course were laid out in 1911 and 1914. Foxburg, modest though it is, stands alone as the course with the longest unbroken link to the beginnings of golf in America in the 1880s.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Peper, George, ed. **Golf In America: The First One Hundred Years.** New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1988.

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"Synoptic History of Golf at Foxburg," *Greenbriar* [North Carolina] *Gazette*, June 26, 2001.

The Scottish-American History Club Newsletter, October, 1994.

Stewart, William C., "History of the Foxburg Country Club, First in USA," remarks delivered at sixtieth anniversary of the club, September 13, 1947, and reprinted in an unattributed newspaper clipping in the collection of the Foxburg Country Club, Foxburg, Pennsylvania.

Variety of newspaper clippings in the collection of the Foxburg Country Club, Foxburg, Pennsylvania.

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Oral History Interviews

Interview, brief and unrecorded, with Club President David Middleton and preparer of nomination, the substance of which is incorporated into the nomination.

Taped interview with James Tonks, October 6, 1999, in possession of Foxburg Country Club.

Letters, manuscripts, etc.

Adams, Mr. And Mrs. Marcellin C. "The Story of the Foxburg Country Club." MS in the collection of the Foxburg Country Club, Foxburg, Pennsylvania.

"Fox Family," MS in the local history collection of the Foxburg Free Library, Foxburg, Pennsylvania.

Letter from Congressman John P. Saylor to Roy Tippery, September, 20, 1968 in the collection of the Foxburg Country Club.

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10. Geographical Data

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Consisting of Clarion County Tax Parcels 9-02-28, 9-02-18, and 26-01-98 as depicted on the Tax Assessment Maps of Clarion County, Pennsylvania.

JUSTIFICATION

The nominated acreage includes only the land historically associated with the original 9-hole golf course, the 1912 Robert Grange, Jr. House which later became the clubhouse, and the property immediately associated therewith. A notched-out area along Route 58 contains a house not directly associated with the golf course.

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PHOTOGRAPH LOG

All Photographs:

**Foxburg Country Club & Golf Course
Clarion County, PA**

Photographer: David L. Taylor

Date: 2006

**Negatives filed at: Taylor & Taylor Associates, Inc.
9 Walnut Street
Brookville, PA 15825
814.849.4900
taylorandtaylorinc@adelphia.net**

1. Facade of clubhouse, looking west, with putting green in foreground, showing overall form and finish of the building
2. Northeast perspective of clubhouse, looking southwest, with putting green in foreground, showing log finish of clubhouse, veranda, dormer, etc.
3. Clubhouse, south elevation looking north, showing exterior finishes, stone chimneys, veranda, parking lot
4. Clubhouse, rear (west) elevation, looking east
5. Clubhouse, veranda, looking southeast toward golf course
6. Clubhouse, interior, basement, showing lounge and general condition of this area
7. Clubhouse, first story, looking across main reception area to the south, showing fenestration, beamed ceilings, stone fireplace, etc.

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8. Clubhouse, first story, looking north across main reception area, showing stone fireplace, stair to second story, etc.
9. Clubhouse, first story, diningroom/meeting room, looking west
10. Clubhouse, interior, second story, showing parlor, finishes, stone fireplace, etc.
11. Clubhouse, second story, lounge room, looking northeast.
12. Clubhouse, second story, showing golf memorabilia display, French doors, etc.
13. Golf course, looking south down hole No. 7
14. Golf course, detail of stone retaining wall, bench, and one of the stone devices used historically to fashion tees out of sand and water; this example is on the No. 1 tee
15. Stone well house, at edge of Harvey Road, with golf course in background, looking east.
16. Modern cart storage building immediately south of clubhouse (non-contributing)
17. Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission commemorative plaque at edge of golf course on Route 58
18. Modern maintenance building and restrooms (non-contributing), looking south